

RESOLUTION NUMBER 236
EUGENE B. REDMOND

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that Eugene B. Redmond will be celebrating an auspicious career as an educator, a writer, and a poet; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Redmond will be celebrating retirement as Professor of English, African American Literature and Creative Writing at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville; his 70th Birthday (December 1st); release of *Drumvoices Revue* (#15) & *Images & Homages: 'Memoirs' from the EBR Collection*, co-published by the Eugene B. Redmond Writers Club (chartered in 1986 by Sherman Fowler, Darlene Roy & Mr. Redmond) and SIUE; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Redmond has the distinction of being Poet Laureate of East Saint Louis since 1976 and the Founding Editor of *Drumvoices Revue*. During the early-mid 1960's, he edited SIUE's *Alestle* & the *East St. Louis Monitor* under the late Clyde C. Jordan. He "souljourned" to The March on Washington. He published poems in St. Louis-area journals--*Perspectives*, *Free Lance & Tambourine*. He was cited by the *Chicago Tribune* as one of 25 outstanding college students in America. He won poetry awards sponsored by Washington University's Annual Fine Arts Festival & *Free Lance* magazine. He wrote proposals for the Human Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, during the mid-late 1960's, he became a leader in Civil Rights/Black Power movements & regional/national literary circles. He was Director of Head Start at Grace Hill Settlement House. His other accomplishments included Teacher-Counselor & Poet-in-Residence at SIU-East Louis' Experiment in Higher Education; a teacher with Henry Dumas, Oliver Jackson, & Katherine Dunham at the Performing Arts Training Center; anthologized in *The New Black Poetry* and Nigeria's *Black Orpheus*; a performer with Black Artists Group (BAG) in Laclede Town & Lafayette Park; a teacher in Webster University's Upward Bound Program & Writer-in-Residence at Oberlin College (Ohio); and

WHEREAS, from 1970-85, Mr. Redmond was Professor of English and Poet-in-Residence in Ethnic Studies at California State University-Sacramento; won an Outstanding Faculty Research Award & a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship; published *Drumvoices: The Mission of Afro-American Poetry plus Sentry of the Four Golden Pillars, River of Bones and Flesh and Blood, & Songs from an Afro-Phone*; edited *Sides of the River & Griefs of Joy: Anthology of Afro-American Poetry for Students*, recorded an LP/CD, *Bloodlinks & Sacred Places*, and became Visiting Professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, he rejoined the faculty of SIUE; in 1998, he was invited by Oprah Winfrey to read an original poem at Maya Angelou's 70th birthday gala; in 1999, he joined Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, Walter Mosley, Lerone Bennett Jr., August Wilson & Henry Dumas as an inductee into the International Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent; in 2003, received *Staying the Course Award* with Angela Bassett and Gordon Parks in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Redmond experienced the fruits of his photographic labors in 2004 when "Visualizing Black Writers: An Extra-Literary Exhibit from the Eugene B. Redmond Collection" received international premieres at SIUE's Morris University Center Gallery & the African Studies Institute Gallery at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Redmond has authored or edited dozens of collections of poetry & diverse writings, including plays for stage and TV, and the posthumously published works of Dumas; received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Pan-African Movement USA, a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, a Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses, a Tribute to Elder Honor from the African Poetry Theater of NYC, an American Book Award for *The Eye in the Ceiling*, and released *Blues-Ode to the ForeDreamers & Other Poems* in 2001; and

WHEREAS, this year, he was inducted into the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield and received the Sterling Brown Award for Lifetime Achievement from the African American Literature and Culture Society of the American Literature Association during AALCS's Symposium at St. Louis University.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Alderman of the City of St. Louis, that we pause in our deliberations to congratulate and recognize Eugene B. Redmond for his lifetime of accomplishments as an educator, a writer and a poet; and we wish him peace and happiness in his retirement, and we direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to further prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 16th day of November, 2007
Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward
Adopted this the 16th day of November, 2007 as attested by:

Denise Watson-Wesley Coleman
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen